Inclusion of Members from Film Industry in Censor Board

266 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Film Certification has approved the inclusion of some members nominated by the Film Industry to the 'Censor Board';

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such members;

(c) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee oversee the recommendation made by the Ministry to keep the Censor Board free from any 'vested interests';

(d) if so, how far the inclusion of members nominated by the Film industry conforms to that recommentation; and

(e) the details of steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The Central Board of Film Certification is constituted by the Central Government. It shall consist of a Chairman and not less than 12 and not more than 25 other members appointed by the Central Government About six of the members are associated with the film infustry.

(c) to (e) The Standing Committee on Communications (1994-95) (Tenth Lok Sabha) has, in its 8th Report, recommended that the members of the Board should not be from the film industry

Persons who are qualified, in the opinion of the Central Government, to Judge the effect of films on the public are appointed as members of the Board. Therefore, persons from a cross section of the society, including persons associated with films, are included in the Board There is no legal bar to the appointment of persons from the film industry as members of the Board The members of the Board are associated only at the level of Revising Committees A Revising Committee consists of a Chairman and not more than nine members, being members of the Board or its advisory panels The authority approving the composition of the committees can always constitute them with a judicious mix of persons from various walks of life including the film industry Further, the members of the Board are expected to follow a code of conduct prescribed by Government while discharging their duties Therefore, the recommendation was not fully accepted by Government

The Standing Committee on Communications has in its 28th Report reiterated its view that no member from the film industry should be appointed to the Board Final reply to this recommendation is yet to be sent

[Translation]

Union Subsidy to Bihar Government

287. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for providing subsidy for the opening of hotels in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) subsidy provided for opening of hotels in the backward areas of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d). The Union Government offers interest subsidy ranging from 3% to 5% on loans provided for approved hotel projects of one, two and three star category which is disbursed through the State Financial Corporation, State Industrial Development Corporation, Tourism Finance Corporation and IFCI. An amount of Rs. 16,11,902/- has been released as interest subsidy to various hotel projects in Bihar during 1995-96.

[English]

Irregular Air Service to Leh

288. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether air service to Leh (Ladakh) has become increasingly irregular,

(b) how many times the flights were delayed for over four hours or cancelled during the first six months of the current year; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken to ensure regularity of the service?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M IBRAHIM) . (a) No, Sir

(b) During the period January, 1996 to May, 1996, three flights of Indian Airlines were delayed beyond four hours and 20 flights were cancelled.

(c) All technical delays are investigated to pinpoint the cause and remedial action is taken where necessary. The delays of the previous 24 hours are also reviewed everyday on regular basis to identify the areas where these can be eliminated or reduced.